

February 2024

Press Release #2

Sudo Reiko: Making NUNO Textiles



須藤玲子：NUNOの布づくり

2.17 — 5.6 2024 水戸芸術館現代美術ギャラリー
[SAT] [MON] Contemporary Art Gallery, Art Tower Mito

Exhibition Overview

Exhibition Title : Sudo Reiko: Making NUNO Textiles

Date : Saturday, February 17 (Sat.) — Monday, May 6, 2024

Venue: Contemporary Art Center and Plaza, Art Tower Mito

Open Hours: 10:00—18:00 (no admittance after 17:30)

Closed on Mondays (except for National holidays) and days following national holidays (except for May 6).

Admission: ¥900. ¥700 for a group of more than 20 people.

Free of charge for high-school students and younger, seniors over 70, and the disabled and one accompanying attendant. Student card holders and seniors 65 to 69 get a discount rate of ¥100 each first Friday. Student card or other age identification required.

Organised by Mito Arts Foundation

In Cooperation with CHAT (Center for Heritage, Arts and Textile) Hong Kong, Japan House London

With Sponsorship of Adastria Co., Ltd.

Sponsored by Kiuchi Brewing and Distilling Inc.

Supported by Suntory Holdings Limited

Curated by Mizuki Takahashi (Executive Director and Chief Curator, CHAT)

Installation Design by Adrien Gardère, Masafumi Tashiro

Artistic Direction by Seiichi Saito (Principal of Panoramatiks)

Planning and Operation by Oko Goto (Curator, Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito)

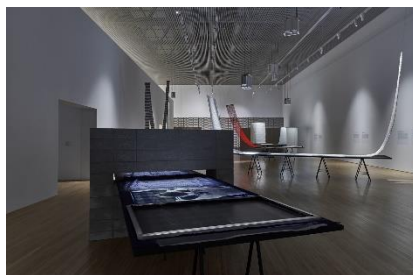
Comprehensive Large-Scale Solo Exhibition Presents the creative journey of Textile Designer Reiko Sudo and the textile design studio “Nuno”.

This exhibition presents the creative journey of textile designer Reiko Sudo and the textile design studio Nuno which Sudo leads. Nuno has been at the forefront of the world in the field of textile design, combining traditional Japanese craftsmanship with the most innovative technologies of the times, incorporating unconventional materials, and addressing the issue of sustainability in the industry. Through multimedia installations and a wealth of documents, this exhibition provides a rare behind-the-scenes look into textile production, including collaborations with crafts workers and factories throughout Japan and efforts to expand the possibilities of materials. In addition to providing a comprehensive overview of Nuno’s activities, the exhibition includes a large-scale installation that draws on the potential of Art Tower Mito’s exhibition space to bring attention to the diverse possibilities of textiles and arouse feelings of delight and curiosity among viewers.

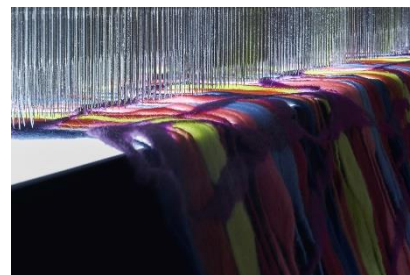
The exhibition Sudo Reiko: Making NUNO Textiles was conceived and hosted by the Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile in Hong Kong in 2019 before travelling to various locations in Europe. In Japan, following the Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, the exhibition will finally arrive at the Contemporary Art Gallery, Art Tower Mito in Ibaraki Prefecture, where Sudo was born and raised.



Exhibition view: MAKING NUNO: Japanese Textile Innovation from Sudō Reiko, Japan House London, 2021 ©Japan House London



Sudo Reiko: Making NUNO Textiles, Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, 2023. Photo by Masayuki Hayashi



Needle punching machine of Threadstray (Detail) Exhibition view: Sudo Reiko: Making NUNO Textiles, CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) Hong Kong, 2019-20 ©CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) Hong Kong

Reiko Sudo

Born in Ishioka, Ibaraki Prefecture. Design Director, Nuno Co., Ltd. Professor Emeritus, Tokyo Zokei University. Since 2008, textile design advisor to Ryohin Keikaku, Tsuruoka Textile Industry Cooperative, Yamagata Prefecture, As corporation and others. Since 2016, served on Ryohin Keikaku’s Advisory Board. Wielding a vast array of techniques and technologies ranging from traditional Japanese dyeing and weaving to contemporary high-tech textile processes, Sudo has created works included in the permanent collections of MoMA; the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Victoria & Albert Museum; The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; and many other institutions worldwide.



Photo by Masayuki Hayashi

▼ Exhibition Highlights

1. Comprehensive large-scale solo exhibition presents the textile production of textile designer Reiko Sudo and the textile design studio Nuno

Since joining as a founding member of the textile design studio Nuno in 1983, Sudo has, as the studio's design director, created textiles rich in both creativity and functionality for roughly four decades. Her works have been collected by museums and are highly regarded both in Japan and abroad.

This exhibition presents a comprehensive look at the creative and technical processes that make textile production possible, conveying Sudo's artistic approach through the exhibition of Nuno's signature works while also focusing on the factories across Japan that bring their textiles to life.

2. How Nuno textiles are made—A look behind-the-scenes

This exhibition focuses on the inspiration for their designs and the production process. Through a wealth of sources that detail how fabrics are developed and produced, a complete picture of Nuno's textile design comes into view.

Visitors gain a rare behind-the-scenes look into textile production, ranging from the spark behind an idea, raw materials, and sketches to production samples, the back and forth with craftspeople, and the manufacturing process. Immersive installations recreate the factory production environment using audio and video to highlight and convey how fabrics are made.

3. *Koinobori* carp banners glide through the gallery

The installation *Koinobori* features colourful *koinobori* carp banners made of original Nuno textiles that swim across the expansive exhibition space. Designed by Adrien Gardère, this form was conceived as a way to share with a broader audience the wonder of the Japanese dyeing and weaving techniques. The installation has captivated viewers around the world, including at the National Art Center, Tokyo (2018), the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. (2008), and Musée Guimet in France (2014).

In the Contemporary Art Gallery and Plaza designed by Arata Isozaki, carp banners delight and inspire viewers. In addition, artisans in Mito City have revived the Mito black dyeing technique, which originated in the 17th-century Mito Domain, to create special *koinobori* for this exhibition.

Production Cooperation: Otaniya Dyeing Factory

About Mito Black

A dyeing technique passed down through the Mito Domain (associated with parts of present-day Ibaraki Prefecture) during the Kanbun era (1661-1673) in the early Edo period (1603-1868). Mito black is made by dyeing an indigo base black with yashabushi, a brown dye made from the alder tree, and is characterised by its unique deep colour and bluish hue. This traditional method fell out of favour as chemical dyes became more common during the Taisho era (1912-1926), but since the 1970s, local people have been working to recreate and pass on the technique once again.

4. Textile created as a homage to Art Tower Mito's symbol tower

Art Tower Mito's tower, designed by Arata Isozaki, is known as a beloved symbol of the City of Mito. Sudo's new textile created as a homage to Arata Isozaki's design will be premiered in this exhibition.

▼Related Programme

Opening-Day Artist Talk

Date: Saturday, February 17, 2024

Time: 13:30—15:00 (Doors open at 13:00)

Venue: Conference Hall, Mito City Civic Center

Speakers: Reiko Sudo (Textile Designer, Design Director of Nuno Corporation), Mizuki Takahashi (Executive Director and Chief Curator, CHAT)

Capacity: appx. 100 seats

Fee: Free

※This programme will be conducted in Japanese.

Weekend Gallery Talk

CAC (Contemporary Art Center) gallery volunteer talkers guide visitors to explore the exhibition together.

Dates: Saturdays from March 2 onwards, starting at 14:30, approx. 40min.

Venue: Contemporary Art Gallery

Fee: free *exhibition ticket is required.

▼ Also Happening

Criterion 100 Yuka Numata

Date: Saturday, February 17—Monday, May 6, 2024

Venue: Gallery 9, Contemporary Art Gallery, Art Tower Mito

Admission: Ticket for “Sudo Reiko: Making NUNO Textiles” is required.

Sponsored by: Corp. ASIASYSTEMSERVICE

Curated by: Megumi Hatai (Curator, Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito)



Yuka Numata, *Living room*, 2002

Installation view: Tokyo University of the Arts Graduation Works Exhibition, Tokyo, Photo by Ujin Matsuo

Criterion is an exhibition series featuring primarily new works co-curated by young artists and curators of the Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito. This exhibition presents Yuka Numata, an artist of the generation of digital natives for whom the internet is a part of daily life. Numata's work examines the relationship between everyday life and the two- and three-dimensional realms from both digital and analogue perspectives.

Numata, born in Chiba Prefecture in 1992, is based in Tokyo and Chiba and has exhibited her work in Japan and abroad. For this exhibition, Numata transforms the gallery into a hotel room, drawing on her experiences of domestic and international travel as well as the world of video games, which we increasingly encounter as electronic devices permeate our world. Numata presents an installation that, through collages of accumulated images and a unique technique using fused beads, makes us consider the ways our physical and digital worlds overlap and diverge.

High School Student Weeks 2024

Date: Sunday, March 3—Sunday, April 7, 2024

Venue: Workshop room, Contemporary Art Gallery, Art Tower Mito

High School Student Weeks began in 1993 as a programme for high schoolers to visit exhibitions free of charge. A cafe run by a young generation was established inside the gallery for visitors to participate in a variety of programmes, including workshops and extracurricular activities related to exhibitions. The cafe now welcomes those of all ages, providing opportunities to encounter diverse people and values. During the exhibition period, the cafe inside the gallery workshop room will be available to anyone who wishes to partake in a variety of activities, including workshops, reading, and sewing. For example, visitors can take part in workshops to learn more about the inspiration for the works exhibited in Sudo Reiko: Making NUNO Textiles through hands-on activities. Visitors can also participate in drop-in activities that require no advance registration. For more information, please visit our website.



※1 : Includes high school students and those of high school age

※2 : Beverage service is subject to change according to COVID-19 pandemic conditions

[Press Image Stock] The images are available for press purpose. Please contact Torii at the office.

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1. Reiko Sudo & Adrien Gardère, *Koi Currents*, 2008/2019 (Detail)
Exhibition view: Sudo Reiko: Making NUNO Textiles, CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) Hong Kong, 2019-20
©CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) Hong Kong
2. Needle punching machine of *Threadstray* (Detail)
Exhibition view: Sudo Reiko: Making NUNO Textiles, CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) Hong Kong, 2019-20
©CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) Hong Kong
3. Exhibition view: Sudo Reiko: Making NUNO Textiles, CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) Hong Kong, 2019-20
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4. Exhibition view: MAKING NUNO: Japanese Textile Innovation from Sudō Reiko, Japan House London, 2021
©Japan House London
5. Vitrine showing the development of *Colour Plate*
Exhibition view: Sudo Reiko: Making NUNO Textiles, CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) Hong Kong, 2019-20
©CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) Hong Kong

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6.Reiko Sudo, *Threadstray*, 2006, Photo by Masayuki Hayashi

7.Reiko Sudo, *Amate*, 2000, Photo by Masayuki Hayashi

8.Reiko Sudo, *Kibiso Futsu Crisscross*, 2008, Photo by Masayuki Hayashi

9.Reiko Sudo, *Colour Plate*, 1997, Photo by Masayuki Hayashi

10.Reiko Sudo, *Jelly Fish*, 1993, Photo by Masayuki Hayashi

11.Reiko Sudo, *Paper Rolls*, 2002, Photo by Masayuki Hayashi

NOTES

CONTACT

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1-6-8, Goken-cho, Mito City, Ibaraki, 310-0063, Japan

Tel: +81 (0)29 227 8120 / Fax: +81 (0)29 227 8130 <https://arttowermito.or.jp/>

Regarding the exhibition, contact Oko Goto (Curator, Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito).

Regarding educational programs, contact Junko Moriyama, Yoshihiro Nakagawa (Educational program coordinators)

For public relations and publicity of photographs, contact Kaori Torii (PR). Email: cacpr@arttowermito.or.jp

Information is available on Art Tower Mito's X account http://twitter.com/MITOGEI_Gallery

Requests regarding publication of information:

1. Please make sure to use the official title of the exhibition, along with the exhibition dates.
2. When using photographs, please put captions, credits and any other information attached to a photograph adjacent to the photo.
3. The phone number of Art Tower Mito to be published is +81 (0)29 227 8111 only.
4. Please send Torii Kaori a copy of the VTR, newspaper or magazine for our archives.
5. For interviews with an artist or to photograph the exhibition, please contact Torii Kaori in advance. Requests may not be accepted under some circumstances.

ACCESS

Train:

Take the Limited Express on the Joban Line from Ueno Station (also from Shinagawa and Tokyo Station), Tokyo, and get off at Mito Station. The Express runs every 30 min. The ride takes 65-85 min. From Mito Station, take a bus from stop no. 4, 5, 6 or 7 at the North Exit bus terminal and get off at "Izumi-cho 1-chome," the fourth stop. Walk toward the direction of the Mito station and cross the street (route #50) on the first crossing. Walk ahead in a narrow lane in parallel to the crossing. It is a 2-min. walk to Art Tower Mito.

For details, please contact East Japan Railway Company (JR). Tel: +81 (0)29 221 2836 <http://www.jreast.co.jp/>

Highway Bus:

Take a highway bus bound for Mito (via Akatsuka route or Ibarakidaigaku route) from the stop No. 4 at the highway bus terminal located at the Yaesu South Gate of Tokyo station. The ride takes approx. 100 min. Get off at the "Izumicho 1-chome" stop. It is a 2-min. walk to Art Tower Mito.

For details, contact Ibaraki Kotsu (Transport). Tel: +81 (0)29 251 2331 <http://www.ibako.co.jp/>

Car:

Get off at Mito IC on Joban Highway, and drive toward the city centre on the route 50 for about 20 min. Art Tower Mito is on the crossing of route 349.

Pay parking is available (underground parking and multi-story parking). The gates are on the north side of the east end of the Art Tower Mito building. Free for 30 min., ¥200 for an hour and ¥100 for every additional 30 min. For highway tolls and routes, please refer to E-NEXCO Drive Plaza "DoRaPuRa."

Tel: +81 (0)570 024 024 <http://www.driveplaza.com/>